



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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## **DEFENDANT FROM WIRETAP CASE PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING A FIREARM BY A CONVICTED FELON**

LOUISVILLE, KY - Reginald Rice, age 34, of Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Rice was one of eleven defendants in the wiretap case pending before Judge Russell, which was dismissed in August of this year after the suppression of the wiretap evidence was upheld on appeal. Rice is the only remaining defendant in this case.<sup>1</sup>

On Friday, October 19, 2007, the United States Attorney filed a Superseding Information charging Rice with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Today, Rice, who was convicted of a felony drug possession charge in Jefferson Circuit Court in 1996, admitted that he possessed a firearm in April of 2004. The firearm was a Glock, Model 23, .40 Smith & Wesson caliber semi-automatic handgun, bearing serial number BLY845US.

This firearm was connected to the gun and drug trafficking conspiracy charged in the wiretap case, originally indicted in September of 2004, which was ultimately dismissed against all eleven defendants except for Rice. The drug trafficking charges in the Indictment could not go forward against Rice (and the other defendants) without the wiretap evidence. Rice, who was

<sup>1</sup>In August of 2007, co-defendant Terrell Gray pled guilty to a gun charge related to the drug trafficking conspiracy (possession of a firearm by a convicted felon).

convicted of felony drug possession in Jefferson Circuit Court in 1996 cannot lawfully possess a firearm.

The maximum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amy Sullivan and Philip C. Chance. The Louisville and Atlanta Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Atlanta Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before Judge Dave Whalin, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky. Judge Whalin ordered a presentence investigation. Rice is scheduled to be sentenced on February 20, 2008, before Judge Russell, in Louisville, Kentucky.

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